

# ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 175, a resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The early history of the Americas is plagued with immeasurable acts of violence and inhumane cruelties. The establishment of the transatlantic slave trade is merely one of numerous blemishes that remain a part of our troubled past. From the late fifteenth through nineteenth centuries, an estimated ten million Africans were abducted, bound and shipped as human cargo to the Americas.

These men, women and children were used to build the foundation of nations spanning Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. Words can hardly do justice to the struggle these individuals faced on a daily basis. Working endless hours through unbearable conditions, African slaves constantly fought a losing battle to survive. Though disbanded several hundred years ago, the legacy of this institution remains imbedded in our societies even today.

African descendants throughout the Americas have historically suffered from societal and governmental marginalization. In the United States, African descendants experience disproportionately high infant mortality, illiteracy and poverty rates. As a nation, we have worked to fight against these racial disparities, yet they continue to persist.

Only recently have similar trends been analyzed and acknowledged in Latin American and Caribbean countries. This fight is ongoing both at home and abroad. We must extend our reach beyond domestic policy to advance an international discussion of racial issues.

Though America aspires to lead the world in the realm of economic policies and technological innovation, it constantly falls short of promoting racial equality. As pioneers in all other industries, it is our duty to be at the forefront of all efforts geared towards amending the social and economic disparities that continue to haunt African descendants in the Americas.

The largest number of Afro-descendants living outside of Africa can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean. These individuals share in our early history and suffer from the residual effects that are evidenced in our own communities. It is equally our responsibility to aid and assist Latin American and Caribbean nations' efforts to overcome their institutionalized racial disparities. Our common past will forever link our futures.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution serves as a reminder of the history shared amongst the Americas. The emancipation of all men, though boldly declared by many nations throughout the nineteenth century, remains to

be realized. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution as a necessary step in addressing the racial inequities that persist in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.

## HONORING HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, in 1979, a small group of health care professionals and lay volunteers in Elizabethtown began meeting to explore the idea of establishing a hospice in Hardin County. On April 24, 1980, the Elizabethtown Area Hospice (EAH) served its first patient. The agency was staffed entirely by volunteers who provided care for patients and families living in and around Elizabethtown. In 1986, EAH became fully certified by Medicaid and Medicare. The next year EAH changed its name to the Hospice of Central Kentucky (HCK) and expanded its services to include five counties: Hardin, LaRue, Grayson, Meade, and Breckinridge. In 1989, HCK also began offering its services to patients living in Marion and Washington counties. In the spring of 1990, Taylor, Green and Adair counties became a part of HCK's service area.

As the organization has grown and expanded its services, its base of operations has also changed. EHA was first headquartered in a small office in Hardin Memorial Hospital. Over the years, HCK has moved to different locations around Elizabethtown as the agency grew. After a successful capital campaign in 1993, HCK moved into its new main office building located on Diecks Drive in Elizabethtown. Since expanding its services to Taylor County in 1990, HCK has operated a satellite office in Campbellsville.

A significant milestone in HCK's history occurred in 1996 when HCK joined with Hospice of Louisville to form the Alliance of Community Hospices, Inc. The following year HCK received its first certification from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

During its 25 years of existence, Hospice & Palliative Care has provided high-quality end-of-life care services to thousands of patients and their families living in the Central Kentucky area. In 2004, HCK provided almost 30,000 patient days of care to 625 patients and their families. These services include pain and symptom control, medication management, personal care, emotional and spiritual support, volunteer assistance and bereavement care. In addition to providing core hospice services, HCK also employs a children's counselor to provide children and adolescents with specialized counseling and support. HCK also sponsors a grief camp, Camp Evergreen, for grieving children and their families.

Licensed by the state of Kentucky, HCK accepts Medicare, Medicaid and many forms of private insurance. With the help of donations from the community, HCK provides care for seriously ill patients and their families living in the Central Kentucky area regardless of their ability to pay for services.

While HCK has grown and changed in many ways over the years, one thing has always re-

mained constant and that is the agency's commitment to providing the highest quality, most compassionate care possible to patients with terminal illnesses and their families. HCK dedicates its 25th anniversary to its patients and families. Their courage and their faith, in the midst of illness and loss, is a source of inspiration to others.

## KELLY'S BODY SHOP, ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE 2005 CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Benjamin Mendoza, Sr., owner of Kelly's Body Shop in Santa Ana, California.

Kelly's Body Shop was opened in 1978 by three separate owners but was then bought in 1994 by Mr. Mendoza who consolidated its ownership.

Over the past 12 years, under Mr. Mendoza's ownership and strong management skills, Kelly's Body Shop has become one of the most successful businesses in Santa Ana, almost tripling its production and revenue in 2001.

Mr. Mendoza considers it the mission of Kelly's Body Shop to provide quality, timely and satisfactory repairs and services to all of its customers and the people of Santa Ana, California.

It is for these reasons that on June 15, 2005, the California Small Business Association awarded Mr. Mendoza a Small Business Award for his contribution and dedication to the city and people of Santa Ana.

Kelly's Body Shop is an example of a successful business in California that continues to give back to its community. I believe that Mr. Benjamin Mendoza, Sr., will continue to expand his commitment to the communities he serves.

## LOUISVILLE YOUTH CHOIR TO TOUR AUSTRIA IN JUNE 2006

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent selection of the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir to represent Kentucky and perform in the 2006 Mozart Youth Choral Festival in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Amadeus Mozart's birth. Receiving the opportunity to perform in Austria, home of the musical capital of the world, is a great honor and wonderful experience for these young musicians.

Founded in 1967 by Italio Taranta, a former Professor of Music and Choral Conductor at the University of Louisville School of Music, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir is the city's premier children's and youth choral training program, composed of young talent throughout metropolitan Louisville representing

grades 4–12. Its repertoire has as much diversity as it has breadth, incorporating music from a broad range of cultural styles, from key classical and modern works to voice and instrumental soloist performances.

Invitation to this international music festival is a testament to the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir's passion for excellence in singing and choral performance, which has captivated audiences for nearly thirty years. Thanks in no small measure to Mr. Don Scott Carpenter, Executive Director, and Mrs. Terri E. Foster, Director of Operations, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will be sharing their talents with their European peers and perhaps, new musical friendships will form as a result.

Next summer, the hills will indeed be alive with the sound of music. The Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will be performing in two of the original venues where Amadeus Mozart himself performed: the Salzburg Dom (or Cathedral) and the Votivkirche (Votiv Church) in Vienna. In fact, not only did Mozart perform here but he was also employed as the Cathedral's Choral Director. In addition to visiting the many historical, artistic and cultural sites in Austria, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will have the great honor of performing under the co-directorship of Janos Czifra, who is the Cathedral's present Choral Director, and Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, one of America's foremost conductors and composers. I can only imagine the thrill this must be for a group of young music performers and enthusiasts.

I am incredibly proud of such a talented group of artists which, next year, will find itself immersed with the sights and sounds that inspired some of the world's greatest musical geniuses such as Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, and Strauss. Mozart mastered his first piece when he was five years old and, in time, performed before French and English royal courts. In their own special way, these young artists will be following in Mozart's footsteps when they perform in the great halls of history.

Mr. Speaker, I join the state of Kentucky in praising the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir for their persistence and hard work. I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations for this most recent honor and I wish them the very best in Austria.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT R. ROBBINS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Albert R. Robbins. Known to most of his friends as Al or "Abbie," he has been a well respected pillar of the community and a man of many accomplishments since his early years.

Mr. Robbins has been a life long resident of Philadelphia. A product of the Abington Public School System, Abbie served our country with honor as a member of the US Army's 5th Division in Europe. He resumed his education after completing his tour of duty, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cheyney State Teachers College in 1959. Sports and music have always been an important part of his life. While at Cheyney, he sang with the

traveling choir for four years and was a member of the football team. While beginning his career as an Industrial Arts teacher in the Pottstown School District, he enrolled in graduate courses at Temple University and Penn State for his Masters degree in education. In 1964, during the Civil rights movement, Al broke through color barriers by becoming the first African American bus driver hired by Eastern Greyhound Lines where he worked part time until 1980.

Mr. Robbins has been a member of countless public service organizations, including the Sanctuary Choir of the St. Paul's Baptist Church of Philadelphia, LAAP, ALAA, NEA, PABA, NAACP, Pottstown Education Assoc., and the Montgomery County Industrial Arts Association. He is also a past commander of V.F.W. Post 3389 and a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Mr. Robbins is retiring after 34 years of service in the field of Technology and Education with many great accomplishments. In recognition of his years of service I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL  
MICHAEL L. HOLMES

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Rear Admiral Michael L. Holmes. Admiral Holmes is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe and hails from Lumberton, North Carolina. After graduating from Pembroke State University in 1972, he was commissioned as a Naval Officer and designated a Naval Aviator. Admiral Holmes has served with distinction for nearly 32 years in the Navy, including several tours in command of operational forces and several important staff positions. Admiral Holmes is a person of tremendous talent, determined drive, and rich personality. His record of achievement is among the most remarkable on a long and distinguished list of military officers hailing from the Tar Heel State. He displays leadership that inspires others to give their all and puts them at ease as they strive to excel. He embodies the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. This great North Carolinian continues to bring great credit and honor to his native state, to his people, and to his family. As a nation, we are indeed honored by his long, faithful, and productive service to our country.

Admiral Holmes will retire from the United States Navy on October 1st, 2005. Mr. Speaker, Mike Holmes and his wife, Vee, have made many sacrifices during his long and illustrious career, and I offer a profound thanks to him from the citizens of North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District for his service. As they embark on the next great adventure beyond their beloved Navy, may God's strength, joy, and peace be with them both.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELISSA FYE  
AND MR. JIM JENKINS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding constituents and educators from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Melissa Fye and Jim Jenkins are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts to bring real scientific research to the classroom.

Melissa Fye, elementary school teacher at Ashburn Elementary School in Ashburn, VA, and Jim Jenkins, elementary school teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Purcellville, VA, were chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to participate in the Teacher at Sea Program. This three-week-long research program involved a trip to sea in the Pacific Ocean this spring. As Teachers at Sea, Ms. Fye participated in coral reef research and Mr. Jenkins participated in fisheries and ocean current research.

Ms. Fye embarked on NOAA Ship H'I'ALAKAI in Honolulu, Hawaii, and cruised in the waters of the south Pacific. Mr. Jenkins's cruise, on the other hand, explored cold Alaskan waters, where he embarked on NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN in Kodiak, Alaska, and disembarked in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. While onboard, Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins wrote lesson plans, maintained daily logs, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with their students, other teachers and students, and the general public. Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins participated in the Teacher at Sea experience in order to enrich their curriculum and excite their students about the sciences.

In her final log, Ms. Fye wrote that she ". . . wants [her] students to know that life is not a collection of things, but a collection of experiences . . . [and hopes] this trip—the resources and anecdotal stories [she] brings back to the classroom—encourages them to explore opportunities as they arise in their own lives."

Mr. Jenkins engaged his students each day in daily e-mail messages. In one message, Mr. Jenkins told his students that he has ". . . been impressed by the cooperative spirit of everyone on [NOAA ship] MILLER FREEMAN," and, in turn, encouraged his students to work together as a team while he was at sea.

Both Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins were supported by a partnership between the Loudoun Education Foundation and the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program. I commend the Loudoun Education Foundation, and also the Loudoun County school district, for supporting the efforts of these two teachers to promote scientific education in the classroom.

I congratulate Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins on their spirit of adventure in the name of education, their willingness to try new things, and their ability to bring this experience back into the classroom.